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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

NINETY-NINTH REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

Chairman: Mr. Renagi Renagi LOHIA (Papua New Guinea)

1. The Working Group held its 136th and 137th meetings on 4 August 1992.

1. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

2. In connection with the question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters, the Working Group recalled that the General Assembly, by paragraph 6 of its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961, authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. By paragraph 3 (9) of the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, the Assembly directed the Committee to continue to hold meetings away from Headquarters as appropriate.

3. Notwithstanding the above, the Working Group was of the view that it was not necessary at that time for the Special Committee to consider holding meetings away from Headquarters. The Working Group decided to recommend that the Committee should take that view into consideration.

2. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

4. The Working Group proposed that the Special Committee recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee should continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization and recommended that the Assembly should make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 1993.

3. Pattern of conferences

5. The Working Group noted that, during the year, the Special Committee had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 46/190 of 20 December 1991. By organizing its programme of work effectively and by holding extensive consultations and working in informal session, the Committee had been able to curtail considerably the number of its formal meetings. The Working Group recommended that the Special Committee should continue to pursue its efforts to rationalize the use of the conference-servicing resources and to avoid as far as possible last-minute cancellation of scheduled meetings.

6. The Working Group decided to recommend that, taking into account the probable workload of the Special Committee for 1993, the Committee should consider holding its meetings according to the following schedule:

(a) Plenary

February/June	As required
July	20 meetings (6 to 8 meetings a week)

(b) Subsidiary bodies

March/June	30 meetings (3 to 5 meetings a week)

7. It was understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 1993, review the scheduled meetings on the basis of new developments that might arise. The Working Group recommended that, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, the Special Committee, while fulfilling its mandate, should strive to keep its meetings to a minimum.

4. Control and limitation of documentation

8. The Working Group noted that, during the year, the Special Committee had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979 and 39/68 of 13 December 1984. Those

measures included the circulation of its documents in provisional or unofficial form whenever appropriate. The Working Group recommended that, consistent with the goal of limiting documentation, the Special Committee should streamline its report to the General Assembly.

5. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

9. The Working Group decided to recommend that the Special Committee should continue consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives which the General Assembly might give at its forty-seventh session.

6. International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

10. The Working Group noted with satisfaction that the regional seminar held in Grenada from 17 to 19 June 1992, the first important activity carried out by the Special Committee within the context of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, was a full success. The Working Group decided to recommend to the Committee that the conclusions and recommendations of that seminar should be taken into account in its consideration of the situation in the Caribbean Territories.

11. Noting that the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism 1/ provided for the holding of seminars in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, alternately, the Working Group decided to recommend that the Special Committee should organize in 1993 a regional seminar in the Pacific region to consider, in particular, issues relating to the situation in the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories of that region.

12. The Working Group further decided to recommend that the Special Committee should invite United Nations organs, agencies and institutions to apprise the Secretary-General of actions they had taken in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 relating to the Plan of Action.

7. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

13. In order to facilitate the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee at Headquarters, as recommended in the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Working Group decided to recommend that the Committee should examine the possibility of securing the necessary financial resources to cover the expenses relating to the participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work. In that connection, the Working Group further decided to recommend that the draft guidelines on the circumstances under which the Special Committee might recommend funding by the United Nations of the participation of

representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work at Headquarters and the procedure to be followed in those cases, 2/ should be considered by the Bureau and the Committee.

Notes

1/ See A/46/634/Rev.1.

2/ See the annex to the present report.

Annex

GUIDELINES FOR FUNDING THE PARTICIPATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES IN THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

1. The Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, which the General Assembly adopted by its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, provides, inter alia, that the Special Committee should encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work at Headquarters.

2. It is noted, in particular, that the General Assembly, in approving its resolution 46/71 of 11 December 1991 relating to the programme of work of the Special Committee for the year 1992 and its resolution 46/181 on the Programme of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, had before it the programme budget implications of those resolutions contained in documents A/C.5/46/57 and A/C.5/46/80, respectively. It is noted further that the above documents made provision for the funding of the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee at Headquarters.

3. The present guidelines are intended to determine the circumstances under which the Special Committee may recommend funding by the United Nations of the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work at Headquarters and to outline the procedure to be followed in those cases.

A. Eligibility

4. The term "representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories" for the purpose of funding refers exclusively to elected representatives of territorial governments, other appropriate authorities or personalities duly mandated by them. Such a mandate must be communicated in writing to the Special Committee along with a request for hearing at least two weeks before the session or meeting concerned.

B. Approval of requests for funding

5. Requests for funding shall be approved on a case-by-case basis by a decision of the Special Committee when in session or, between sessions, by its Bureau. In the latter case, such approval will be given only after the request has been circulated to the members and has encountered no objection. With due regard to the financial rules and regulations of the United Nations, requests for funding will be granted only within the limit of the provisions approved by the General Assembly under the appropriate accounts for the year concerned.

C. Sessions or meetings of the Special Committee to be attended

6. Funding may be considered for the participation of representatives from Non-Self-Governing Territories for either the session of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance or the resumed summer session of the Special Committee.

D. Number of participants from each Non-Self-Governing Territory and frequency of participation

7. Subject to the availability of funds and the relevance of the items on its agenda, the Special Committee may recommend the funding of the participation of one representative from each Territory at either the session of the Subcommittee or its resumed summer session.

E. Duration of participation

8. While each participant may attend the whole session of the Subcommittee, as well as the resumed summer session of the Special Committee, daily subsistence allowance shall be paid only for three days, which is the average duration of the consideration of each Territory by the Subcommittee or the Committee.

F. Channel of communication

9. The Working Group decided to recommend that in accordance with established practice, invitations to participate in the Special Committee should be channelled through the administering Powers concerned.

G. Review process

10. The Working Group decided to recommend that the Special Committee should review at its next session the functioning and efficiency of the above guidelines.